

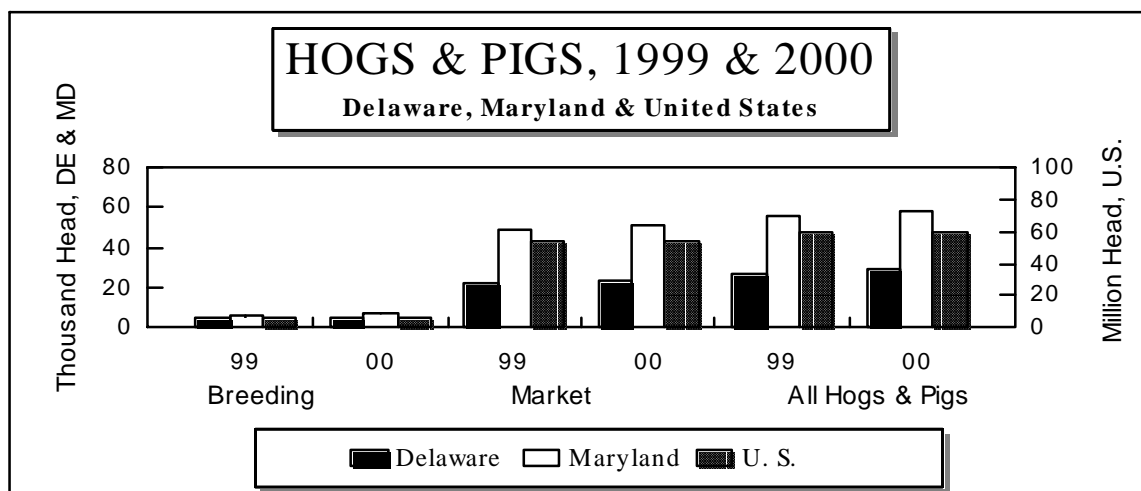
U.S. HOG INVENTORY

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2000, was 59.8 million head. This was 1 percent above December 1999, but slightly below September 1, 2000. Breeding inventory, at 6.28 million head, was up 1 percent from December 1, 1999, and up slightly from September 1, 2000. Market hog inventory, at 53.6 million head, was 1 percent above last year, but slightly below last quarter. The September-November 2000 U.S. pig crop, at 25.5 million head, was 2 percent more than 1999, but 1 percent less than 1998. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.88 million head, 1 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 46 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter of 8.88 pigs saved per litter for the September-November period, compared to 8.78 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs. U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.91 million sows farrow during the December 2000-February 2001 quarter, 4

percent above the actual farrowings during the same period in 2000, and 1 percent below 1999. Intended farrowings for March-May 2001, at 2.92 million sows, are 1 percent above the same period in 2000 but down 2 percent from 1999. The number of hog operations with hogs totaled 85,760 during 2000 during 2000, down 13 percent from last year and 25 percent below 1998. Places with 2,000 or more hogs on hand accounted for 8 percent of the operations and 72 percent of the inventory. This is the fifth time operations with inventories over 2,000 head have controlled over 50 percent of the total inventory. The number of operations with over 5,000 head of inventory at, 2,095, accounted for 50.5 percent of the total inventory, up from 46.5 percent a year ago. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by these over 5,000 head operations, but raised by contractees, accounted for 30 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, down from 32 percent last year.

Sows Farrowed, Pigs per Litter and Pig Crop United States 1999-2000						
United States	Sows		Pigs Per Litter		Pig Crop	
	1999 Thousand Head	2000	1999 Number	2000	1999 Thousand Head	2000
December -February ¹	2,891	2,798	8.73	8.76	25,247	24,522
March - May	2,986	2,890	8.80	8.86	26,272	25,610
June - August	2,920	2,899	8.86	8.86	25,862	25,686
September - November	2,844	2,875	8.78	8.88	24,973	25,536

¹ December preceding year.



AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Prices received by Maryland and Delaware farm operators for December were continuing to recover. Both crops and livestock prices rose from November, with the exception of hay and broilers. The milk price was the highest for the year and egg prices were the

highest since November 1997. However, prices farmers (and all consumers) are paying for purchased goods have risen more.

Commodity	Unit	Maryland and Delaware			United States			Parity Price
		DEC 1999	NOV 2000	DEC 2000	DEC 1999	NOV 2000	DEC 2000 ¹	
		Dollars						
Wheat, Winter	BU	2.07	2.11	2.17	2.27	2.70	2.67	9.84
Corn	BU	2.22	1.86	1.99	1.82	1.86	1.91	6.78
Oats	BU	1.65	1.55	1.58	1.18	1.18	1.16	3.44
Barley	BU	1.44	1.35	1.38	2.25	2.12	2.08	6.06
Soybeans	BU	4.35	4.44	4.65	4.43	4.55	4.84	14.20
All Hay, Baled	TON	131.00	148.00	119.00	72.00	85.00	85.10	-----
Apples,Fresh	LB	0.270	0.255	0.245	0.232	0.185	0.181	1.50
All Beef Cattle	CWT	58.30	68.40	70.90	66.60	69.10	71.20	157.00
Calves	CWT	80.50	80.20	80.60	98.60	106.00	106.00	202.00
Hogs	CWT	33.20	34.50	38.20	35.60	36.40	40.60	104.00
Milk, Fluid MKT	CWT	13.10	14.00	14.40	12.30	12.60	13.00	32.10
Chickens ¹	LB	0.110	0.055	0.060	-----	---	-----	-----
Broilers	LB	0.370	0.365	0.320	0.368	0.380	0.350	-----
Turkeys, Live	LB	----	----	----	0.422	0.470	0.405	0.937
Eggs, Market	DOZ	0.485	0.661	0.774	0.433	0.584	0.694	1.540

¹ Mid-Month Forecast, Entire Month Price.

INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED			
INDEX AND RATIOS	UNITED STATES 1990 - 92 =100		
	DEC 1999	NOV 2000*	DEC 2000
All Farm Products	91	*98	98
All Crops	89	*97	96
Feed Grain & Hay	82	*85	88
Oil- Bearing Crops	82	84	88
Fruits & Nuts	94	*107	83
All Livestock and Livestock Products	95	*100	101
Meat Animals	88	92	95
Dairy Products	93	*96	99
Poultry and Eggs	110	119	114
Ratio 1/	78	81	81
Prices Paid Index	117	121	121

*Revised

CHICKENS AND EGGS

Maryland laying flocks produced 68 million eggs during November 2000, of which 61 million were table eggs and 7 million were hatching eggs. The average rate of lay was 75.6%. The average number of layers on hand

during November 2000 was 3,327,000. On December 1, 2000, 2.0% of the layers in Maryland were being molted and 39.0% of all layers had been through a molt.

Eggs and Layers: November 1999-2000			
Item	1999	2000	2000/1999
Eggs Produced During November	-----Million-----		Percent
U.S.	7,016	7,025	100
Maryland	78	68	87
Layers, Average Number During November	-----Thousand-----		
U.S.	328,253	330,486	101
Maryland	3,438	3,327	97
Eggs / 100 Layers During November	-----Number-----		
U.S.	2,137	2,126	99
Maryland	2,269	2,044	90

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